

House File 2100 - Introduced

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BY GOBBLE

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing the alternate energy innovation program in
2 the department of education.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **256.36A Alternate energy innovation**
2 **program — fund.**

3 1. For purposes of this section, unless the context
4 otherwise requires:

5 *a. "Higher education provider"* means an institution of
6 higher education governed by the state board of regents or an
7 accredited private institution as defined in section 261.9.

8 *b. "School"* means all of the following:

9 (1) A school district established pursuant to chapter 274.

10 (2) A charter school established pursuant to chapter 256E.

11 (3) A charter school or innovation zone school established
12 pursuant to chapter 256F.

13 *c. "Solar energy conversion equipment"* means any device
14 that is primarily used to collect and convert incident solar
15 radiation into thermal, mechanical, or electrical energy or any
16 device that is primarily used to transform such converted solar
17 energy to a storage point or to a point of use.

18 *d. "Wind energy conversion equipment"* means any device,
19 including a wind charger, windmill, wind turbine, tower and
20 electrical equipment, pad mount transformers, power lines, and
21 substation, which converts wind energy to a form of usable
22 energy.

23 2. The alternate energy innovation program is established
24 in the department. The department shall administer the
25 alternate energy innovation program in consultation with
26 the state board of regents and the utilities board within
27 the utilities division of the department of commerce. The
28 alternate energy innovation program is designed to enhance
29 educational opportunities by providing students enrolled in
30 schools and students enrolled in higher education providers
31 with access to solar energy conversion equipment and wind
32 energy conversion equipment.

33 3. A school and a higher education provider may enter into
34 an agreement to allow students enrolled in the higher education
35 provider to provide training and practical instruction to

1 students enrolled in the school related to the solar energy
2 conversion equipment or wind energy conversion equipment and
3 how to maintain the solar energy conversion equipment or wind
4 energy conversion equipment.

5 4. *a.* An alternate energy innovation program fund is
6 established in the state treasury under the authority of the
7 department. The alternate energy innovation program fund shall
8 consist of moneys available to and obtained or accepted by the
9 department. Moneys in the alternate energy innovation program
10 fund are appropriated to the department to be used for the
11 alternate energy innovation program.

12 *b.* The department shall use the moneys in the alternate
13 energy innovation program fund to provide grants to schools
14 pursuant to this section. The department shall use the moneys
15 in the alternate energy innovation program fund to leverage
16 available federal moneys if possible.

17 *c.* Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest
18 or earnings on moneys deposited in the alternate energy
19 innovation program fund shall be credited to the alternate
20 energy innovation program fund. Notwithstanding section 8.33,
21 moneys credited to the alternate energy innovation program fund
22 shall not revert at the close of a fiscal year.

23 5. A school may apply to the department for a grant pursuant
24 to this section for the installation of solar energy conversion
25 equipment or wind energy conversion equipment on the school's
26 property. The department shall award grants on a competitive
27 basis after considering the following:

28 *a.* The school's total proposed budget for the proposed
29 project, including all of the following:

30 (1) The amount or percentage of local or federal matching
31 funds, if any, and any funding obligations shared between the
32 school and private entities.

33 (2) The percentage of funding provided directly from
34 the school, including whether the school requested from
35 the department an amount less than the maximum amount the

1 department could award pursuant to subsection 6 and, if so, the
2 percentage of the project cost that the school is requesting.

3 *b.* The specific educational attributes resulting from the
4 proposed project, including the benefit the project would have
5 on students and the courses that could utilize the solar energy
6 conversion equipment or wind energy conversion equipment.

7 *c.* Whether the school will partner with a higher education
8 provider pursuant to an agreement entered into under subsection
9 3.

10 *d.* Other factors the department deems relevant.

11 6. *a.* The total amount of the grants the department awards
12 from the alternate energy innovation program fund pursuant to
13 this section shall not exceed five hundred thousand dollars per
14 school per school budget year.

15 *b.* In addition to the limitation in paragraph "a", the total
16 amount of the grants the department awards from the alternate
17 energy innovation program fund pursuant to this section shall
18 not exceed any of the following amounts per school per school
19 budget year:

20 (1) Fifty percent of a school's project costs for the
21 installation of solar energy conversion equipment or wind
22 energy conversion equipment if the school has entered into an
23 agreement with a higher education provider under subsection 3.

24 (2) Thirty-five percent of a school's project costs for
25 the installation of solar energy conversion equipment or wind
26 energy conversion equipment if the school has not entered into
27 an agreement with a higher education provider under subsection
28 3.

29 7. A school may sell to the electric public utility that
30 provides electricity to the school any electricity produced by
31 the solar energy conversion equipment or wind energy conversion
32 equipment that the school installed pursuant to a grant
33 awarded by the department under this section. Moneys generated
34 by the sale of electricity pursuant to this subsection are
35 miscellaneous income for purposes of chapter 257 and shall be

1 used for in-classroom expenses.

2 8. The department and the utilities board within the
3 utilities division of the department of commerce shall jointly
4 adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A to administer this section.

5 EXPLANATION

6 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
7 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

8 This bill establishes the alternate energy innovation
9 program in the department of education.

10 The bill requires the department of education to administer
11 the alternate energy innovation program in consultation with
12 the state board of regents and the utilities board within
13 the utilities division of the department of commerce. The
14 bill provides that the alternate energy innovation program is
15 designed to enhance educational opportunities by providing
16 students enrolled in schools — public schools, charter
17 schools, or innovation zone schools — and students enrolled
18 in higher education providers with access to solar energy
19 conversion equipment and wind energy conversion equipment.

20 The bill authorizes a school and a higher education provider
21 to enter into an agreement to allow students enrolled in the
22 higher education provider to provide training and practical
23 instruction to students enrolled in the school related to the
24 solar energy conversion equipment or wind energy conversion
25 equipment.

26 The bill establishes the alternate energy innovation
27 program fund in the state treasury under the authority of the
28 department. The bill authorizes a school to apply to the
29 department for a grant from the fund for the installation of
30 solar energy conversion equipment or wind energy conversion
31 equipment on the school's property. The bill describes the
32 factors the department must consider when determining what
33 school should receive a grant.

34 The bill provides that the total amount of the grants the
35 department awards from the fund shall not exceed \$500,000 per

1 school per school budget year. Additionally, the bill limits
2 the total amount of the grants the department awards from the
3 fund to 50 percent of a school's project costs if the school
4 has entered into an agreement with a higher education provider
5 and 35 percent of a school's project costs if the school has
6 not entered into an agreement with a higher education provider.

7 The bill authorizes a school to sell to the electric public
8 utility that provides electricity to the school any electricity
9 produced by the solar energy conversion equipment or wind
10 energy conversion equipment that the school installed pursuant
11 to a grant awarded by the department under the alternate energy
12 innovation program. Any moneys received are miscellaneous
13 income for purposes of Code chapter 257 (financing school
14 programs) and must be used for in-classroom expenses.

15 The bill requires the department and the utilities board
16 within the utilities division of the department of commerce
17 to jointly adopt rules to administer the alternate energy
18 innovation program.

19 The bill defines "higher education provider", "school",
20 "solar energy conversion equipment", and "wind energy
21 conversion equipment".